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LETTER DATED 30 JULY 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to present to you a letter, dated 29 July 1992, from my President, H.E. Mr. Alija Izetbegovic.

May I ask for your kind assistance in circulating the letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Muhamed SACIRBEY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Letter dated 29 July 1992 from the President of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina addressed to the President of the Security Council

In view of the current situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina where:

1. the aggression by the Belgrade regime and its surrogates against Bosnia and Herzegovina, condemned in Security Council resolution 752 (1992), has not stopped, but has instead intensified;

2. the basic provisions of Security Council resolution 752 (1992) and particularly of paragraph 4, concerning the withdrawal of Yugoslav People's Army (JNA) from Bosnia and Herzegovina and the placement of its heavy weapons under international control, have not been fulfilled;

3. the sanctions imposed against Yugoslavia under Security Council resolution 757 (1992) have not produced satisfying results, as Serbia and Montenegro continue to send troops and weapons into Bosnia and Herzegovina; and,

4. not a single cease-fire agreement reached under the aegis of the European Community and UNPROFOR has been honoured by the Belgrade regime and its surrogates,

we humbly request that the United Nations Security Council, in order to clarify its intent when imposing an arms embargo on Yugoslavia in September 1991, immediately pass a resolution making Security Council resolution 713 (1991) as it was imposed against Yugoslavia applicable to Bosnia and Herzegovina, or in the alternative finding the foregoing resolution not applicable to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

We are compelled to make this request for the following reasons:

1. Limits on arms is creating a power vacuum in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which could become detrimental to the survival of the democratically elected Government. This was certainly not the intent of the Security Council when imposing an arms embargo on Yugoslavia in September 1991.

The democratically elected Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina does not have the weapons and its legal authority to purchase or receive weapons has been voided by United Nations resolution 713 (1991), even when Article 51 of the United Nations Charter grants every Member "the inherent right of individual or collective self-defense if an armed attack occurs against a Member ..."

The democratically elected Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which has a legal and moral obligation to protect all of its citizens against foreign aggression, is made to look impotent in the eyes of its citizens when it cannot provide such protection.

2. It would send a powerful message to many Bosnian Serbs, supportive of the Government, but siding with Belgrade and its surrogates because of their overwhelming military might, that they can now be protected by Sarajevo, which has the support from every country in the world, and which will only get stronger, while their current protector is only getting weaker.

3. Without weapons for Sarajevo, the balance of power remains skewed, and genocide continues. The Belgrade regime and its surrogates have no incentive to negotiate honestly since the balance of power is so strongly in their favour. Sided neutrality will merely invite further aggression.

While we remain deeply grateful for the support this great body has given to Bosnia and Herzegovina so far, we are nevertheless gravely concerned that anything less than resolute action by the United Nations Security Council to shift the balance of power at this critical moment will invite new and more brutal aggression by the Belgrade regime not only in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Finally, if the United Nations Security Council is not in a position to implement the measures necessary for the protection of a Member State faced with an outside armed attack, it should not obstruct that Member State in providing for its self-defence.

May I request that this letter be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Alija IZETBEGOVIC